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**Foreign Broadcast
Information Service**

NEWSLETTER

Edition 87-3

1 May 1987

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NOTICE

Field Bureaus are reminded that copies of this Newsletter should be destroyed after reading by U.S. Staff employees. This Newsletter is not to be retained in field bureaus.

FBIS NEWSLETTER

1 May 87

PANAMA BUREAU TO JOIN INTERNET SYSTEM

Daily INTERNET feeds from London Bureau of Moscow and Tripoli television newscasts are continuing, as well as ad hoc feeds of documentary and feature programs of special interest to analysts. One such program was the Moscow television excerpts of a 9 April USSR Foreign Ministry press conference at which allegations were made of U.S. attempts to plant listening devices in Soviet buildings in the United States. The relay from London Bureau was carried on the OIR television grid, and videotapes were passed to the Office of Security at its request.

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Additions to the London schedule are not possible at this time since technical problems with the BBC's newest satellite dishes have limited their ROSET capability. On the other hand, formal frequency allocation approval was received from the Panamanian Government on 1 April, which will allow Panama Bureau to join the INTERNET system. Final testing, training, and INTELSAT verification procedures were completed on 19 May, and the bureau will begin INTERNET feeds in late June, after the arrival of encoding equipment. The initial schedule of relays from Panama will include programs from Bogota, Havana, Mexico City, and Santiago, as well as BBC and ITV newscasts (intercepted from satellite feeds to the Far East) in view of the BBC Monitoring Service's desire that UK television not be relayed out of London Bureau.

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Encoding/decoding equipment has been installed at Madley, Independent Hill, and the Langley TVRO, and INTERNET transmissions from London Bureau have been encoded since 30 March to prevent any possible proprietary/publicity problems. Similar equipment is on order for Panama Bureau.

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FORMAL OPENING OF NEW NICOSIA SITE

The formal opening ceremony for the new FBIS bureau building in Nicosia was held on 24 April. Guests at the ceremony included the U.S. Ambassador and DCM, FBIS Director [] and BBC Monitoring Service General Manager Eric Bowman. There was a large turnout of bureau employees and some spouses, but all Cyprus Government officials invited sent regrets. A reception that evening at Bureau Chief [] house was attended by, in addition to the guests present at the formal ceremony, a number of officials from the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority, UN officers, and representatives from the diplomatic community in Cyprus. Actual operations are expected to begin at the bureau in early summer. []

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[] IN EXCEPTIONAL ANALYST PROGRAM

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[] chief of AG's China/Third World Branch, was accepted into the DCI Exceptional Analyst Program effective 1 April. [] is the second AG'er now in the program; [] is already working on her project. [] study will examine the impact of modern natural and social sciences on Marxism-Leninism in China and the USSR. [] NEAD, completed the Exceptional Analyst Program last November. []

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PREPARATION WORK AT RESTON ON SCHEDULE

Interior construction at the Reston site is continuing. All new walls are up and painted on the third floor and contractors have started laying carpeting. Work is continuing on schedule on the first and second floors. The FBIS Move Committee is holding regular meetings once again. This committee is the coordinating point within FBIS for all aspects of the move to Reston. It carries out its planning and coordination through various subcommittees. The Transportation group is working on a car pool board, similar to the grid map at Headquarters, to be available in Key, Ames, and JPRS. Grids will refer to the rider/driver information on file in Admin Staff's WANG system. The group also is looking into express Metrobus service from the West Falls Church Metro station. []

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NEW CHIEF, FBIS PERSONNEL BRANCH

[] was assigned to FBIS as Chief, Personnel Branch, effective 1 May. He comes to FBIS from a 3-year assignment as Chief, SE Personnel Branch, and brings extensive personnel and field expertise. [] will serve as Deputy Branch Chief, and will continue to oversee the Foreign National Unit, which remains part of Personnel Branch. []

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[] RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED INTELLIGENCE MEDAL

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The DDS&T presented the Distinguished Intelligence Medal to former FBIS Director [] at a ceremony at Headquarters on 26 March. [] retired from Government service last September. The citation stressed his "sustained and outstanding contributions to the overall mission" of the organization in "satisfying critical national intelligence requirements for two decades" as a manager of technical collection. []

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ADVANCE OF PAY INCIDENTAL TO PCS ASSIGNMENTS

The Office of Personnel's newsletter reminds employees that the Government will provide a pay advance equal to six biweekly pay periods of net pay to any eligible employee being reassigned PCS. This benefit proves important in many situations when employees need a large amount of money when they relocate. For example, employees relocating to high-cost cities may be required to pay very large security/rental deposits. The advance of pay benefit is intended to ease the transition of a domestic or foreign transfer and to insure funds are available when emergencies arise. Details of this benefit are available through component personnel officers. []

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EARNINGS AND LEAVE STATEMENTS MODIFIED

With the implementation of the new Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), a number of modifications have been made to the payroll system. These modifications have resulted in changes in the data on employees' earnings and leave (E&L) statements: []

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Implementation of new retirement codes in the payroll system resulted in a minor change in the E&L's. Effective with PP-04, the title for the retirement deduction under the "DEDUCTIONS" column was changed from "RET" to "OPMRET" for all employees who are participants in CSRS or the new FERS (including the FERS Special Category). The deduction title remained "RET" for employees who are participants in the organizational retirement system. For all employees the cumulative year-to-date retirement deductions appear next to the title "RET" under the "CALENDAR YEAR-TO-DATE ACC" column. []

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Effective with PP-09, Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) deductions will appear on the E&L statements of employees who have elected to participate in this program. If an employee has TSP deductions, the amount reflected as "TAX GR" under the "EARNINGS" column does not include the TSP deductions, since these are tax deferred. The amount identified as "TOTAL EARNINGS" does include the amount of the

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TSP deductions. The amount of the TSP deduction taken in the pay period covered by the E&L statement will be displayed in the "DEDUCTIONS" column next to the title "THRIFT." This amount does not include employer contributions. []

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Under "CALENDAR YEAR-TO-DATE," the "TAXGR" shows the amount of taxable income earned year-to-date. It does not include the amount of TSP deductions taken year-to-date because these are tax deferred. The total amount of TSP deductions taken year-to-date will be displayed next to the title "THRIFT." This amount does not include employer contributions. []

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SPECIAL SERVICES TO WHITE HOUSE, OTHERS

Reports carried by the Wire on USSR General Secretary Gorbachev's 10 April speech in Czechoslovakia were passed by the White House Situation Room to President Reagan's party in Los Angeles. The reports enabled the President to comment on Gorbachev's proposal on shorter range missiles in his address to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council. In addition, the Gorbachev speech was monitored by the Headquarters TVRO and fed over the OIR grid. []

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AG analyst [] delivered to the Department of State five copies of an FBIS special memorandum, "Soviet Statements on the ABM Treaty," prepared at the request of Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Curt Kamman to assist in the Department's review of the ABM treaty. Also provided were two additional special memoranda on Soviet statements on SDI research together with translated and original-language versions of significant statements by Soviet officials on the ABM treaty. []

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At the request of the U.S. Ambassador to Austria, AG compiled a roundup of press reaction from Europe and the USSR on the Justice Department's decision to bar Austrian President Kurt Waldheim from entering the United States. The report was cabled to the Ambassador. []

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On 1 May the Headquarters TVRO provided consumers with live coverage of Moscow Television's broadcast of May Day celebrations in the USSR. The 2 1/2-hour program included live relays of May Day parades around the world and interviews with the cosmonauts on the Mir spacecraft. []

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PRODUCTION GROUP DEVELOPMENTS

NEAD Asia Branch alerted Bangkok Bureau to the significance of a Cambodian radio report on contacts between officials of Bolivia and the Phnom Penh regime. The report prompted an exchange of priority messages between State and the embassy in La Paz, after which the embassy confronted the Bolivian Foreign Ministry on the matter. []

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North Asia Section obtained some issues of the new, New York edition of NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN. This U.S. edition arrives faster but is not as comprehensive in its coverage as the Tokyo edition. []

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China Branch's [] received a \$1,000 Exceptional Accomplishment award in recognition of his contributions to Production Group's office automation efforts, particularly for his work as system administrator for the Xerox Star foreign-language word processing system. The DDS&T presented the award at a ceremony on 26 March. []

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[] paper, "Japanese High-Tech Information: A Beckoning Market," which is now in its second printing by P&PD, is under consideration for possible public sale by NTIS. [] wrote the paper while he was participating in the DCI Exceptional Analyst Program. []

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[] of S&TC hosted a meeting of the STIC Soviet R&D Process and Resources Working Group (SPARWG) on 18 March. The group was greeted by D/FBIS and received briefings from group and division chiefs. []

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EURA complimented ELAAD for Czechoslovakia Section's Foreign Press Note, "Slusovice -- Blueprint for Economic Reform?" which EURA said was the first alert to U.S. Government readers of the existence in Czechoslovakia of an enterprise apparently operating under the 1968 economic reform principles. []

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NIO for Latin America Bob Vickers visited ELAAD on 31 March and briefed Prod Group and DRD officers on collection needs and requirements. []

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At the 19 March NIO coordination and strategy meeting, FBIS Focal Point Officer for Narcotics [] presented a report prepared by South America Branch on media reaction to Operation Blast Furnace, the joint U.S.-Bolivian antidrug operation in Bolivia last July-November. The report had been expressly requested by NIO for Narcotics William Kotapish as the result of a SOUTHCOM inquiry into the feasibility of further such use of U.S. troops in other South American countries. []

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UD's [] wrote "Filmmakers Lead Drive To Cut Back Censorship" originally as a Foreign Press Note, but after a conference with AG analysts it was decided that the article merited further development, including a more analytical approach. [] article underwent the full AG production process -- a searching critique requiring further research, redraftings, and review on four levels -- and was published in TRENDS. C/AG praised the article as an example of intergroup cooperation []

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[] received a special commendation from the DDS&T for donating a total of 10 gallons of blood. A ceremony was held in UD to highlight [] selfless contribution. []

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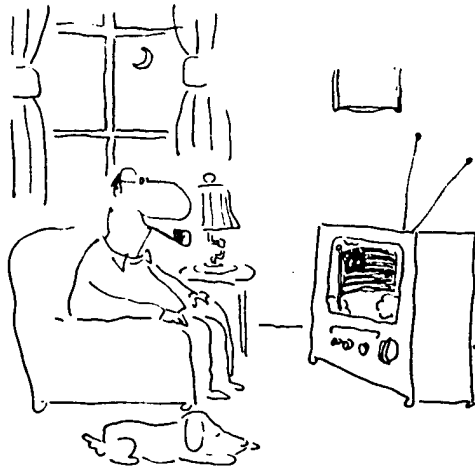
The NIO for General Purpose Forces, Maj. Gen. Stephen Nichols, visited UD in April to discuss coverage of Soviet military affairs and FBIS operations in general. General Nichols met with C/Prod and was briefed in the division. []

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Total JPRS wordage processed on diskettes in April was 4.74 million, up significantly from the March total of 3.99 million. The number of independent contractors submitting work on diskettes reached 258 in April. []

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"And this brings to a conclusion, thank goodness, our broadcast day."

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FROM THE FIELD BUREAUS

A visit to London Bureau by an ESG team resulted in an agreement on a feasible timetable for bureau automation in conjunction with BBC automation (mid-1988) and bureau consolidation and office renovation, tentatively scheduled for completion in the fall of 1991. Bureau management met with BBC Monitoring Service General Manager Eric Bowman and the BBC architect for Caversham Park modernization to discuss modalities of BBC-bureau coordination for renovation of the second floor and bureau occupancy of space vacated by BBC personnel. Meeting results proved helpful in conceptualizing the project and establishing tentative milestones for specifications, designs, cost estimates, contract tenders, and the actual work phase. []

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The BBC modernization project is continuing to progress, although somewhat delayed as construction of the new building extension slipped by some 5 weeks. Nonetheless, computer hardware installation remained on schedule for a May deadline. The next phase, software testing, though not yet scheduled, is expected to take about 18 weeks. []

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PMU is continuing to produce lengthy translations in diskette format for DAILY REPORT publication. A 20-take USSR draft law on state enterprise translated from PRAVDA in February was a recent example of this procedure. []

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The bureau held a wine and cheese party in the BBC Club in honor of bureau retirees [] and [] Letters from D/FBIS. retirement plaques, and retirement gifts were the order of the day. []

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Austrian Bureau's 300-baud circuit to Croughton was activated on 13 March, some 16 months after the initiative to upgrade the bureau's primary communications circuit was first proposed. The bureau also participated in an editorial experiment designed to gage the impact of editing via computer on the quality of the bureau's file. Several interim reports and a roundup of results were filed to the Managing Editor. The roundup showed that copy quality does not suffer from soft vs hard copy editing. The experiment also showed that editors much prefer having the option of editing either in soft or hard copy rather than working in an all soft-copy or all hard-copy environment. []

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Panama Bureau has instituted stricter security measures: All vehicles entering the compound now are subjected to an exterior search, and all persons entering the area must show embassy badges or identification upon request. Visitor badges are also required. The bureau's goals are to tighten access to the compound and conform more with security standards maintained by other bureaus and U.S. embassies. []

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Panama began an experiment in "open-cluster monitoring" in an attempt to encourage cooperation and dialog among monitors. Another goal is to see if such a configuration would lend itself better to the installation of PC workstations, scheduled for later this year. []

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Since the tear-gas incident last February involving U.S. Ambassador Taylor and the war of words directed against him, Paraguay Bureau has noted that the political atmosphere now seems to have returned to its traditional quieter state. There have been no followup incidents or notable verbal attacks, and the government has given the United States an acceptable apology for the incident in which Paraguayan police used tear gas to break up a private gathering the Ambassador was attending. The bureau filed a number of reports on reaction to the incident by government officials and opposition groups, as well as a report from Moscow radio. At a weekly country team meeting, the Ambassador expressed his concern over the effect of this campaign on the bureau's monitors, who had to cover and translate all the propaganda on the incident. He was assured of the bureau staff's sophistication and ability to keep events in proportion. []

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The Agency Certificate of Distinction was awarded posthumously to late Key West Bureau teletype chief [] who died of a heart attack last January. []

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In an apparent reaction to the attention devoted to the Pollard case in both Israel and the United States, the Israeli press began in March to focus on the "intelligence gathering" activities of the U.S. Embassy. This path led almost inevitably to Tel Aviv Bureau. An article in a weekend supplement to HA'ARETZ described the bureau as "the Israeli station of the CIA." This was followed a week later by an article in the weekly HA'IR that not only described the precise location of the bureau []

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[] The article was summarized on a popular radio show the next morning, and later that same day the bureau received two visits by curious individuals, one of which left an envelope marked "Sinister subversion worldwide" at the door. The Embassy assigned a security guard to the bureau site until the public interest died down. []

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Abidjan Bureau discovered that Ghana's external services resumed broadcasting in March after an absence of several years. The bureau is doing a systematic study of the source's potential. []

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C/Ops received a memo from the D/ALA/DI thanking Swaziland Bureau for its extra efforts in producing the South Africa press review. The memo cites analysts as noting that the bureau continues to be responsive to their requests and that its reporting "figured heavily in support of South Africa Branch's research program." []

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Chief, Operations Group, sent the following to Swaziland Bureau on 1 May: []

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"Congratulations to Swaziland Bureau on the occasion of its 5th anniversary this month! As the staff has matured, the product of the bureau has gained a growing appreciative audience here in Washington and in a number of African embassies. The entire bureau staff can take credit for the significant progress made and the solid reputation gained by the bureau in reporting on events in southern Africa. Keep up the good work." []

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Bangkok Bureau marked its 20th anniversary in April. A congratulatory message to the bureau from C/Ops notes that from a very modest beginning, Bangkok has evolved into one of FBIS' largest and most sophisticated facilities, and its current reporting on events throughout Indochina, South Asia, and parts of Oceania have earned plaudits from a wide range of official consumers in Washington and around the world.

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Headquarters engineer [] installed Bangkok's new automatic facsimile processor and had it up and running by mid-February. Since then the bureau has concentrated on printing the late-night Vietnam fax transmission of the party paper NHAN DAN. The very first printout of a page of the paper came at a good time: Early that morning Hanoi radio announced the largest government shuffle in 30 years. The NHAN DAN front page carried via the fax the preceding evening had the same report and the monitors were able to confirm the names, some of which would have otherwise been rendered phonetically, and to file a comparison FYI.

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Construction of an office and hotel complex between Hong Kong Bureau and the Cable and Wireless antenna field will block the bureau's microwave link this summer. C&W agreed to bureau use of one of their towers to install passive reflector antennas so the microwave link can be maintained. []

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Construction of a new Philippine monitoring unit has been completed at the bureau. The new unit, located next to the radio room, puts the Philippine monitors on the same floor as the Chinese Section and the editors. The move was made largely because of the crisis-prone nature of Philippine coverage and the need to facilitate communication between the editors and the Philippine monitors. []

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The yen-dollar exchange rate keeps reaching record postwar lows. In practical and personal terms at Okinawa Bureau, this means FBIS personnel and U.S. military members are curtailing their off-base shopping and dining out even further, doing so selectively, where local establishments

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offer special exchange rates slightly above the market in order to attract business. Americans are also inspired to drive and park more carefully by a doubling of Japanese traffic fines as of 1 April: Illegal parking now is worth \$80, exceeding the speed limit by 15-20 mph will cost \$133, and inoperative tail lights will bring the offending American a \$47 fine. [redacted]

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Senior Russian monitor [redacted] departed Okinawa for retirement in England in March after 40 years of FBIS service. At the time of his retirement [redacted] had what may have been the earliest service computation date of any active FBIS employee--July 1945, when he began working for the U.S. Government offices in Cairo at the end of World War II. Before coming to Okinawa to join the Russian team there, [redacted] served at the former FBIS Cairo Bureau, the former Mediterranean Bureau at Karavas, Vienna, and London. Quiet and reserved to the last, [redacted] politely declined a retirement banquet. [redacted]

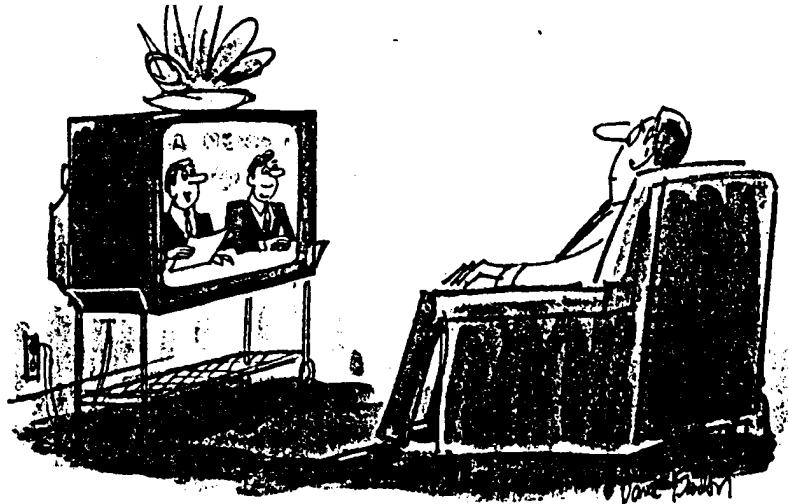
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"Owing to cutbacks in our news department, here is Rod Ingram to guess at what happened today in a number of places around the globe."

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